Expert Opinion to Improve power Sector

†1562. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sought opinion of the experts to bring improvement in the power sector;

(b) if so, the suggestions given by them; and

(c) by when, Government propose to take a final decision on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power, after wide ranging consultations with all the stakeholders nemely State Governments, State Electricity Boards, utilities, experts, trade unions, private investors and political leaders, has evolved a comprehensive and detailed Action Plan for turning around the power sector. The draft of an All Party Declaration of a Common Minimum Plan on Power has been prepared and circulated.

The Central Electricity Authority has estimated the requirement for an additional capacity addition of 1,00,000 MW for attaining the objective of power for all by 2012. For the Tenth Plan a capacity addition programme of approximately 41,000 MW has been targetted. With close monitoring from the beginning the capacity addition targeted for the Tenth Plan is expected to be achieved. Renovation and Modernisation of the existing plants is being given priority. With other measures for:

Reducing technical losses in distribution under the tightly focused APDRP programme;

Demand side management through energy efficiency and energy conservation; and

Improvement in capacities for inter-regional transfer of power through creation of the National Grid.

the country is expected to achieve a satisfactory level in availability of power.

Rural electrification has now been included under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02 as a Basic Minimum Service. Electrification of all villages by 2007 and provision of access to

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

by 2012 has been accepted as a national goal. The budget for the year 2002-03 provides for introduction of a new interest subsidy scheme called the Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme with an outlay of Rs. 164 crore. This would enable States to give the rural electrification programme greater momentum.

The forward-looking, reform-oriented Electricity Bill 2001 has been introduced in Parliament. The Bill, *inter-alia*, contains stringent provisions for penalty in case of power thefts. The Bill also includes provision for reduction of cross subsidies, and for payment of subsidies upfront by the State Governments to the State Power Utilities where such subsidies are considered unavoidable.

It is expected that the action plan briefly outlined in the preceding paragraphs would lead to improvement in the operational and financial performance of the State Electricity Board/Utilities with restoration of commercial viability in a few years.

APDP In KARNATAKA

1563. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Accelerated Power Development Programme has been implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the places where this programme is under implementation in Karnataka;

(c) the places where this programme is proposed to be taken up in Karnataka during 2002-2003;

(d) the amount released for the above programme during 2001-2002; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was introduced in February, 2001 with the sole objective of restoring the financial viability of the State owned power utilities. The programme aims at upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network below 33 KV/66KV. In the first phase, 63 circles have been identified all over the country to be taken up for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution under the APDRP. So far as the State of Karnataka is concerned, 3 circles have